

**DISTRIBUTED SWITCHING PLATFORM AND
METHOD OF OPERATING THE SAME**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A distributed switching platform coupled to an Internet
5 Protocol (IP) network and a method of operating the same. In one
embodiment, the distributed switching platform includes a main
control unit (MCU), coupled to the IP network, that generates call
and control processing commands. The distributed switching
platform also includes a switching partition coupled to the IP
10 network. The switching partition includes an input-output
distributor (IOD) and a circuit-switched matrix and line interface,
coupled to the IOD, that provides an interface to a plurality of
access nodes. The IOD conveys the call and control processing
commands to the circuit-switched matrix and line interface to allow
15 the circuit-switched matrix and line interface to control access to
the plurality of access nodes.